

1 processing system to deposit a dielectric film on a substrate disposed in the process  
2 chamber in accordance with the following:

3 (a) providing a first gaseous mixture to the process chamber, the first  
4 gaseous mixture comprising a first deposition gas and a first inert gas source;

5 (b) generating a first high-density plasma from the first gaseous  
6 mixture to deposit a first portion of the film on the substrate with a first deposition/sputter  
7 ratio within the range of 5 – 12, wherein the first deposition/sputter ratio is defined as a  
8 ratio of a sum of a first net deposition rate and a first blanket sputtering rate to the first  
9 blanket sputtering rate;

10 (c) thereafter, cooling the substrate;

11 (d) thereafter, flowing an etchant gas into the process chamber;

12 (e) thereafter, providing a second gaseous mixture to the process  
13 chamber, the second gaseous mixture comprising a second deposition gas and a second  
14 inert gas source; and

15 (f) generating a second high-density plasma from the second gaseous  
16 mixture to deposit a second portion of the film on the substrate.

17 18. (Unchanged) The computer readable storage medium according to  
18 claim 17 wherein the second high-density plasma is generated to deposit the second  
19 portion of the film with a second deposition/sputter ratio within the range of 5 – 20,  
20 wherein the second deposition/sputter ratio is defined as a ratio of a sum of a second net  
21 deposition rate and a second blanket sputtering rate to the second blanket sputtering rate.

22 19. (Unchanged) The computer-readable storage medium according to  
23 claim 17 wherein the dielectric film is to be deposited over a plurality of stepped surfaces  
24 formed on the substrate having gaps formed between adjacent ones of the stepped  
25 surfaces and wherein the first portion of the film partially fills the gaps.

26 20. (Unchanged) A substrate processing system comprising:

27 (a) a housing defining a process chamber;

28 (b) a high-density plasma generating system operatively coupled to the  
29 process chamber;

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- 1 (c) a substrate holder configured to hold a substrate during substrate  
2 processing;
- 3 (d) a gas-delivery system configured to introduce gases into the  
4 process chamber;
- 5 (e) a pressure-control system for maintaining a selected pressure  
6 within the process chamber;
- 7 (f) a controller for controlling the high-density plasma generating  
8 system, the gas-delivery system, and the pressure-control system; and
- 9 (g) a memory coupled to the controller, the memory comprising a  
10 computer-readable medium having a computer-readable program embodied therein for  
11 directing operation of the substrate processing system, the computer-readable program  
12 including
- 13 (i) instructions to control the gas-delivery system to provide a  
14 first gaseous mixture to the process chamber, the first gaseous mixture comprising a first  
15 deposition gas and a first inert gas source;
- 16 (ii) instructions to control the high-density plasma generating  
17 system to generate a first high-density plasma from the first gaseous mixture to deposit a  
18 first portion of the film on the substrate with a first deposition/sputter ratio within the  
19 range of 5 – 20, wherein the first deposition/sputter ratio is defined as a ratio of a sum of  
20 a first net deposition rate and a first blanket sputtering rate to the first blanket sputtering  
21 rate;
- 22 (iii) instructions to control the gas-delivery system thereafter to  
23 flow a heat-transfer gas to cool the substrate;
- 24 (iv) instructions to control the gas-delivery system thereafter to  
25 flow an etchant gas into the process chamber;
- 26 (v) instructions to control the gas-delivery system thereafter to  
27 provide a second gaseous mixture to the process chamber, the second gaseous mixture  
28 comprising a second deposition gas and a second inert gas source; and